

Prayers for Advent

These prayers might be used in a variety of settings: Opening Prayers (at the beginning of worship) or concluding collects (after the Prayers of the People); for church websites or newsletters; or in personal, small group, or family devotion.

First Sunday of Advent

Unslumbering God,
at an unexpected hour
you sent an unlikely liberator
to an undeserving world.
Keep us faithful in unguarded moments
and alert in uncertain times,
so that we may seek your unmeasured mercy,
serve you with undivided hearts,
live together in unbroken community,
and greet you with unending praise;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our undying Life,
in whom we know your unfailing justice,
unfathomable grace,
and unlimited love.

Matthew 24:36-44; Psalm 121 / Year A

Holy One, though the earth trembles
and the stars shake like leaves,
your word will stand forever.
Keep us watchful for the day
when you will gather the faithful
from all the ends of the earth,
so that we may greet you in glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37 / Year B

Holy God, heaven and earth may pass away
but your realm is eternal
and your promise is sure.
Leaven our hearts with hope
as our redeemer draws near.
Help us to heed the signs of the times,
so that we may be ready to stand
before Christ, our judge and savior;
in whose powerful, glorious name we pray.

Luke 21:25-36 / Year C

Second Sunday of Advent

God of flood and fire,
you blaze a path for us in the wilderness
and lead us through the depths in safety.

Pour out the consuming power of your Spirit.
Wash over us with truth and righteousness
and fan the flames of justice as we wait
for the coming of Jesus Christ our Savior,
living water and light of the world.
Matthew 3:1-12 / Year A

Holy God, you send messengers of good news
to prepare the way for your glorious realm.
Anoint us with your Spirit to proclaim your Word
so that all may repent and believe in you;
through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness.
Mark 1:1-8 / Year B

Holy God, through Isaiah and John
you sent your word into the wilderness,
crying out to repent, seek forgiveness,
and prepare the way of the Lord.
Now prepare the way in us and in our world
for the coming of your living Word,
so that all flesh may know your saving grace;
through Christ, who is coming to reign.
Luke 3:1-6 / Year C

Third Sunday of Advent

Long-awaited Savior,
you are the promise of the prophets,
and we are witnesses to your work—
vision, movement, healing,
music, new life, good news.
Enlighten and enliven us,
send us out to spread the word
so that all may see and hear
and know and believe
that you are the coming of God,
the Messiah.
Matthew 11:2-11 / Year A

Holy One, you have come among us
to lead us in paths of righteousness.
Guide our feet through the wilderness
toward the living water of your grace,
following in the steps of our Savior:
Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
John 1:6-8, 19-28 / Year B

Holy God, you sent John into the wilderness
to baptize and proclaim good news to all.
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit
so that we may repent and bear good fruit,

while we await the promised coming
of Jesus Christ our Savior.
Luke 3:7-18 / Year C

Fourth Sunday of Advent

God of generations,
your promises come to birth in surprising ways.
Fill our hearts with courage and hope
and fill our dreams with visions of new life
so that we live according to your word
and love with the fullness of your grace;
in the holy name of Jesus, our Savior.
Matthew 1:18-25 / Year A

Most High God, for you nothing is impossible.
Through a poor young woman in a small town
you gave birth to your realm of endless glory.
By your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life and hope
and overshadow us with your power and grace
so that we, like Mary, might be your servants,
bearing witness to the promise of your Word;
through Jesus Christ, who is coming to reign.
Luke 1:26-38 / Year B

Living God, with Elizabeth we cry out in wonder:
How can this be, that the Lord has come to us?
Fill us with the life of the Holy Spirit
so that we may greet your gracious promise
with hearts that leap for joy;
through Jesus Christ, your Word fulfilled.
Luke 1:39-45 / Year C

For use with the Annunciation and Magnificat (Luke 1:39-56): "In the beginning, God. In the middle, God. In the end, God. And God of all that is in between. God of miracles, God in tragedy. Infinite God, indescribable God, inconceivable God, impossible God, reveal yourself fully to this unlikely receptacle, pouring yourself out fully in me that I may be poured out in service and love to you and my fellow creatures." (Frank Stricklen)